



Life Course

Positive Outcome

Brief Name

Employment (Young Adults)

Indicator

Percent of young adults 16 to 24 who are employed.

Description

This metric is the number of youth who are employed, either full or part time. It is provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, based on estimates from the Current Population Survey.

WI	US	Best	Worst
58%*	47.6%	67%	35%
Year		IA	MS

2014

Numerator

Number of employed youth

Denominator

Civilian, non-institutional population of individuals aged 16 to 24 years old

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

Importance

Employed youth have more, positive outcomes, such as lower juvenile arrest rates (Allan, 1989). Youth employment also starts youth on a path to self-sufficiency, supporting their development of career readiness skills and self-esteem. Youth who are employed while enrolled in high school are less likely to drop out, and, if coupled with school-to-career programs, are more likely to enroll in college after graduation (Child Trends Databank, 2015).

Limitations

Type and duration of employment is not included here but can have a significant effect on the beneficial impact of employment; youth who are either under employed or over employed (working more, longer hours) may see negative consequences such as low job satisfaction, or, for those who are dually occupied with school and employment, poor scholastic outcomes (Allan, 1989).

Source

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, from <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm#ex14>. Allan, Emilie Andersen, and Darrell J. Steffensmeier. "Youth, underemployment, and property crime: Differential effects of job availability and job quality on juvenile and young adult arrest rates." American Sociological Review, (1989): 107-123. Child Trends Databank. (2015). Youth employment. Available at: <http://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=youth-employment>.